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Contact: Al Gilson, Public Information Officer, (509)324-6015

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**EWU consultant to present historic survey findings at neighborhood meeting**

A consultant from Archeological and Historical Services at Eastern Washington University and engineers from the Washington State Department of Transportation will present the findings of a cultural resource survey to the East Central Neighborhood Council on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. This survey was commissioned by the WSDOT and conducted as part of the North Spokane Corridor, Phase II reevaluation, part of the environmental process currently underway by the WSDOT Eastern Region.

This evaluation of the 1997 Final Environmental Impact Statement has been undertaken by the WSDOT as a part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which requires the updating of the 1997 FEIS if there are changes to the project. Since the right-of-way footprint was reduced to further minimize the overall impact of the new facility, the re-evaluation was needed. The evaluation criteria included reviews of air quality, water resources, noise, visual quality, community impact, hazardous materials, and cultural resources including historical properties.

Of particular interest to the neighborhood was the review of properties that had potential to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). The WSDOT retained the services of experts from Eastern Washington University to collect data on the neighborhood residences and businesses within the project's "area of potential effect" (APE) and inventory those with possible historic significance. The report concluded that 32 properties, out of the 1,000+ that were reviewed, are potentially eligible for the National Register based on architecture. Thirteen of those properties lie within the freeway corridor footprint and the others lie outside of the footprint. In 1993, as a component of the 1997 FEIS, a cultural resource survey was completed that concluded no NRHP eligible properties were in the project limits. However, with the passage of years, changes in interpretations in eligibility requirements, changes in policy to determine the APE and refinements in the right-of-way lines for the project, more properties are now possibly eligible for the National Register.

The WSDOT will continue to work within the required NEPA process with the Federal Highway Administration plus state and local officials.

The 30-minute presentation to the Neighborhood Council is a part of their monthly meeting and is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. at the East Central Community Center, S. 500 Stone.

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